WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon which are executable by a computer system for communicating presence information between presence servers and terminals coupled to the presence servers via a network by performing steps comprising:

identifying at least one presentity to which a terminal has requested presence services;

creating a presence document including presence information corresponding to the presentity;

configuring the presence information as partial presence information comprising less than a total of the presence information available for the presentity; and

communicating the presence document having the partial presence information to the terminal requesting the presence information.

2. The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the instructions executable by the computer system for configuring the presence information comprise instructions for providing status information for presence information that have changed.

3. The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the instructions executable by the computer system for configuring the presence information comprise instructions for providing a mode value in the presence information indicative of whether the presence document includes the partial presence information or a complete update of presence information.

4. The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the instructions executable by the computer system for configuring the presence information comprise instructions for providing at least one action value in the presence information.

5. The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the instructions executable by the computer system for creating a presence document comprise instructions for creating a presence document conforming to a Common Profile for Instant Messaging

(CPIM) specification using Presence Information Data Format (PIDF), and for creating an extension to the CPIM PIDF presence document to facilitate the configuring of the presence information as partial presence information comprising less than a total of the presence information available for the presentity.

6. The computer-readable medium of Claim 5, wherein the instructions executable by the computer system for configuring the presence information comprise instructions for providing status information for one or more presence document tuples that have experienced a status information change.

7. The computer-readable medium of Claim 6, wherein the instructions executable by the computer system for configuring the presence information further comprise instructions for providing a tuple version indicator corresponding to a new version of the tuple that has experienced the status information change.

8. The computer-readable medium of Claim 6, wherein the instructions executable by the computer system for configuring the presence information comprise instructions for providing at least one action value in the presence document tuples to identify an action to be taken at the terminal for the corresponding presence document tuples.

9. The computer-readable medium of Claim 5, wherein the instructions executable by the computer system for configuring the presence information comprise instructions for providing a document version indicator to identify a document version of the presence document, wherein the document version may be used by the terminal to determine whether presence information stored at the terminal is synchronized with the presence server.

10. The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the instructions executable by the computer system further comprise instructions for facilitating terminal subscription to the presence information of the at least one presentity.

11. The computer-readable medium of Claim 10, wherein the instructions executable by the computer system for facilitating terminal subscription to the presence information comprise instructions for facilitating at least one of terminal-initiated fetching and terminal-initiated polling for the presence information.

12. The computer-readable medium of Claim 11, wherein the instructions executable by the computer system for facilitating terminal subscription to the presence information comprise instructions for subscribing the terminal to presence information notifications initiated at the presence server.

13. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein the instructions executable by the computer system for communicating the presence document comprise instructions for communicating the presence document when at least some of the presence information has changed.

14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the instructions executable by the computer system further comprise instructions for recognizing a change in at least some of the presence information, and wherein the instructions executable by the computer system for communicating the presence document comprise instructions for communicating the presence document in response to a presence information change.

15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the instructions executable by the computer system for communicating the presence document comprise instructions for communicating the presence document in response to at least one of an occurrence of a predetermined event, an occurrence of a predetermined time lapse, and a predetermined time.

16. The computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the instructions executable by the computer system for configuring the presence information comprise instructions for providing at least one predefined attribute value with the partial presence information.

17. A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon which are executable by a computer system for notifying client terminals of presence information by performing steps comprising:

(a) creating a presence document for use by at least one terminal requesting presence information regarding a presentity, comprising:

(i) creating at least one tuple, wherein the tuple includes a version value indicating a version of the tuple relative to previous versions of the tuple;

(ii) associating presence information with the tuple, wherein the presence information comprises a subset of the presentity's complete set of presence information;

(b) sending the presence document to the client terminal requesting the presence information;

(c) comparing the version value provided via the tuple to a current version value stored on the client terminal; and

(d) directing the client terminal to update presence information associated with the tuple, if the version value provided via the tuple indicates new presence information is available for that tuple.

18. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave by a computing system and encoding a computer program for communicating presence information between presence servers and terminals coupled to the presence servers via a network, the computer program comprising instructions for:

identifying at least one presentity to which a terminal has requested presence services;

creating a presence document including presence information corresponding to the presentity;

configuring the presence information as partial presence information comprising less than a total of the presence information available for the presentity; and

communicating the presence document having the partial presence information to the terminal requesting the presence information.